

A Full, True, Distinct and Perfect

8610-66-43

ACCOUNT OF THE PRODIGY,

Which with Wonder and Amazement was Observed

AT

DUBLIN,

Sunday May the 24th 1713, in the Evening; with

Convenient Remarks thereon,

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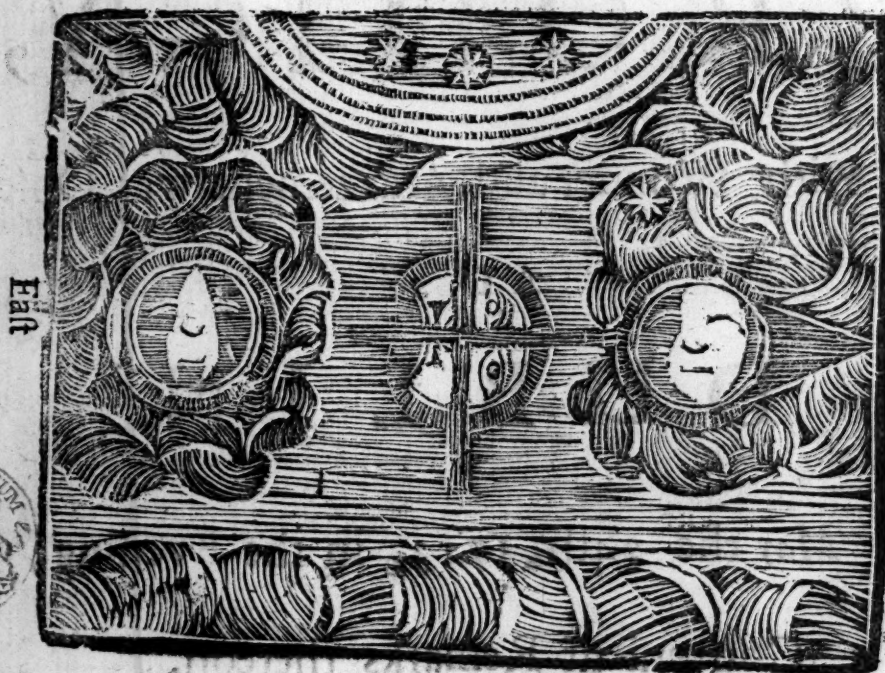
By John Walley Professor of *Astrology* and *Physick*.

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Court just without St. Nicholas-Gate, 1713.

The true Figure of the
P R O D I G Y,

As it was seen at *Dublin* Sunday May the 24th 1713,
 between Ten and Eleven at Night.

The upper Side.



The lower Side,

An Account of the Prodigy, &c.

WHether there was any *Unusual Appearance* observed in the Heavens at the time above mentioned, hath been, and still is, by some greatly *Doubted*, by others. *Affirmed*, and by different Spectators *Differently represented*.

Some add to what really was *Visible*, and only to be seen, that they saw a *Hand Brandishing a Bloody Sword* in the *Air*: others that they saw a *Firry-Dragon* *Descending from the Moon to the Earth*, and *Ascending to the Moon*, again; and a great many other *Storys* no less *False*, than that *ridi-*

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 culous Pamphlet the next day cry'd about the Streets, Intitul'd a *true Account of the strange and wonderful Apparitions that Appeared in the Air last Night, &c.* to which tho' my Name was not perfixt; yet was Roguishly made use of to Advance it's Sale. And therefore to do my self and others more Right, as to that matter, I deny it, and its Hyperbolical Insinuations with both my hands; and shall endeavour more truly to represent that Appearance, in its more Genuine Circumstances, by shewing:

First, That there *was such an Unusual Appearance*, and how it was in all it's Particulars. *Secondly*, What in reality that Appearance was; and under what Denomination to be Rank't. *Thirdly*, that it is fitly stil'd a *Prodigy*, and whether, and how far to be deem'd Natural or Supernatural. *Fourthly*, What the Opinion of the Learned have been concerning the like in times past. And *Lastly*, my own thoughts in reference to this my present Subject.

That there was upon Sunday the 24th of May 1713, between Ten and Eleven at Night, an Unusual Appearance in the Heavens, my Eyes are Witnesses of the Fact, to be as follows, Litterally true.

It happened that going to my Bed about Ten that Night, I was not well settled there, when a Gentleman of my Acquaintance (Curious in things of that Nature) thundering at my door, Oblig'd me to Rise, to Observe and give my thoughts of this Prodigy, which he had before just taken Notice of; and the better so to do, to my Garden (which is a high piece of Ground facing to the Southward) we went, where we had an Oppertunity to make our Remarks of all its Particulars, *which except Colours is tolerably well Represented by the above Figure*; only the Star above the true Moon (which is what in the following Lines, is called the *Virgins-Spike*) shou'd be placed something more to the West.

All which having Remark't, I Consider'd the *New-Moon* then wanted Four Days, abateing four Hours, of being at her full, therefore, her Light did not appear fully round, but as in the Figure here represented; the Round Side of her Light, was *Westward* toward the Sun, from whom she always borrows it. That tho' she was then environ'd with *Dark Clouds*, as if before a shower; yet her Light seem'd *Brighter than usual at that Age*.

That directly Perpendicular, or Upright, Crossing the Moon's Center, there past a *Bright, Shining, Red Stream*, inclining something to a *Purple*, or rather *Rainbow like Colour*; which *Stream extended it self*, considerably beyond the *Moon's Circumference*, both above and underneath. Crossing the former thro' the *Moon's Center*, at *Right Angles*; another *Stream* of the same Colour, likewise past beyond the extremitys of the *Moon's Circumference*, or outward *Rim or Edge*; not so far as the former, pointing directly

directly *East* and *West*, making a *Perfect Cross*. To the *East* of the real *Moon*, in and about 22 Degrees of the Sign *Scorpio*, there appeared a *Pale Faintish Light*, resembling the shape of the *Moon*, in a *Dark Cloud*; and at much like *Distance*, on the *West-Side* of the real *Moon*, another like *Light* but much *Brighter*, *Red* and *Shining*, in about 22 Degrees of *Virgo*, where the *Planet Mars* then was; and from the *Westermost* part of the *Circumference*, of this *Westermost Light*, there proceeded directly *Westward*, a *Stream* coloured much like the *Body* whence it seemed to flow, & much resembling the *Tail* or *Brush* of a *Red Comet*, in the form of a *Cone*, at the *Body* taking up the full *Diameter* of the *Body* of that *Light*, and at its *West End*, terminating in a very acute *Angle*, or sharp point, as in the above *Figure*.

It was this *Stream* that made some conclude it a *Comet*; and others a *Sword*, but in my *Opinion*, it had not the least resemblance of the latter; the *Brush* of a *Comet* always is *Smallest* at the *Star*, and much larger at its *Extremitys*; and this was directly the *Reverse*, so that this could not be a *Comet*.

The *Evening* was very *Calm*, and not the least motion to be observed in the *Clouds*, yet we observed this *Westren-Light*, and its *Stream*, to make a considerable *Progress Westward*.

The *Real Moon* at this time, was in about 24 Degrees of the Sign *Libra*, Basking near the *Cusp* of the *Ninth House* of *Heaven*. Under the *Moon*, (and beneath the lower end of the *Cross*,) there appeared a *Ridge of white Clouds* seemingly moving like the *Waves* of the *Sea*, (and in our *Zenith*) over our *Heads*, a *Brightish, Whitish, Semicircle*, shaped much like a *Rainbow*, but not ascending from the *Earth*, but spread as on the *Ceiling* of a *Floor*, over head, (and therefore not a *Rainbow*) with its *Circular* part bearing *Southwards*, towards the *Moon*; and within it three of those we call *Fixed Stars*.

This is the whole of this so amazing *Appearance*, and whosoever pretends to have seen more, with *Submission* talks without *Book*, and in plain *English* pretends to what is not *Truth*. And so much for its *Appearance*, which is so unusual, that I cannot find by all my *Reading*, any thing like it to have appeared since the Year 1103.

Secondly, As to what it was. The two *Lights*, on the *East* and *West* sides of the *Real Moon*, I take to be of those sort of *Prodigys* called (*Parasalene* i. e. (*Lunæ imagines*, or) *Mock-Moons*; and my reasons for so doing are, those I Hear and herein hereafter name *Mock-Moons*, as to *Form*, *Figure* and *Shape* (and as near as we cou'd perceive) *Size* and *Magnitude*, very much resembled the *Real-Moon*.

Thirdly, The Word *Prodigy*, I take to be derived from the Latin *Prodigium* (i. e.) *contra Naturam*: A *Sight Unusual* or *Monstrous*, that comes to

pass

pass beyond the Altitude of Mans Imagination, and yet often begets Horror, Dread and Amazement; and according to this Definition any thing whether *Cælestial* or *Terrestrial*, being so, is fitly term'd a *Prodigy*, and of both kinds have been, and may be, Innumerable; but I shall here confine my self to the *Cælestial*, and more particularly to these I have named *Mock-Moons*, which some Authors contend to proceed from *Causes Natural*, and others *Supernatural*, but the more general Opinion is, that these and all other *Prodigies* proceed from *Causes natural*; that otherways it would follow, that God shu'd cease to work by Instruments; and that whenever God intends to punish a Nation, Country, City, Place or People in General, he is wont first to give Notice thereof by Apparitions and *Prodigys*, which therefore, they say, always Denote some great Good or Evil soon to follow. And indeed, when we look back, and compare *Hystorical* Relations, with the times of the Appearance of *Prodigies*, they every where furnish us with reasons to conclude, that opinion to be the result of experimental truths, so constant, that if we shu'd yet doubt *Prodigies*, to be *Instrumental Causes* of such Accidents, as are recorded always to attend 'em; It cannot be denyed, but they have constantly been *Signs* and Forerunners of Uncommon and strange *Revolutions* and Accidents (yea sometimes of even the most stupendious, in respect to the general Affairs of the World. And if so, whether they were *Signs* or *Causes*, *Natural* or *Supernatural*, ought not so much to be our concern, as to consider, whether, and how far, we have deserved favours former ages were unworthy of, and if not at all, whether we have not the greatest reason to look upon these *Mock-Moons*, as *Trumpets* sent to Awaken and Alarm us to a more strict and throug Inquiry into our selves and our present State, and to let every one to amend one, and as much as possible contribute to that of his Neighbours and Country.

Fourthly, And that we may the better see what succeeded such Signs in former times, I find in the last six hundred Years, of *Mock-Suns* no less than 21 times, but of *Mock-Moons* in that whole tract of time but six times, and what attended take in briefly as follows.

1103. There were seen at the same time, one *Full-Moon* in the *East* and another in the *West*. The Consequence was the Son of the Emperor Rebell'd against his Father. A Council was held at *London* for reforming the Clergy, and all married Priests were excommunicated by Anselm. A great stir in France about Church Goods taken by the Layety. The Venetians obliged the Emperor to Condescensions which he unwillingly granted 'em in Prejudice to his Authority.

1169 viz 66 Years after the former, there were seen three Moons at the same Time, viz. two *Mock-Moons* & the *Real Moon*. Thomas Becket an Insolent Priest.

Priest was killed in a Church in England. Catana a City in Sicily, with Fifteen Thousand of its Inhabitants, its Bishop and Clergy, were all destroyed by an Earthquake. A Smiths Son of most despicable birth, pretending to be Harolds Grandson, raised strong troubles in Norway. The Romans Razed the City of Alba; and the Year next following, a great Innundation overflowed most part of if not all Frizeland.

1314. Which was no less than 145 Years after the last, produc'd three Moons, as the last at one time. Lewis and Frederick were set up by different Parties of the German Electors, as contending Emperors. A Council called at Ravenna for Reformation, &c. (much wanting in our days) The then Pope Died and (Notwithstanding the Infallibility and continued Succession that Party Boast of) the Chair remained vacant two Years. The English under Edward the Second, made War against, and was well beaten by the Scots, Lewis Hutine got the Crown of France; the Queen of Castile died. The Genoways Invaded the Venetians, and Rob'd and Spoil'd their Merchants and Country.

1514. No less than two hundred Years after the last, the like three Moons appeared in England and other Parts of Enrope; Part of Essex was burn'd and Spoyl'd by the Rhodians in Favour of France; an Interview between the Emperor, King of Poland and Bohemia, and between the Pope and the French-King. The Queen of Scots fleeth to England; and the next Year Queen Mary (the Scourge to Protestants) was Born; and Cardinal Wolsey began to rise at Court, and the Pope Quarrel'd with the Venetians.

1551 Product a like 3 Moons at one time, and three at another, and in England the beheading of the Duke of Sommerfet, A New War between the French-King and the Emperor; and in Germany a World of Disputes about Religion,

1553. There were three more like Moons at once, succeeded by the Death of King Henry the 8th of England, and the Accession of Queen Mary to the Throne, her Persecuting the Protestants &c. Callis lost to the French, a General Pestilence in England, the Hanging of Strutton an English Lord for Murder, the Revolt of Transilvania, a New War between the Pope and Spain, and the Death of Nineteen thousand People at Brussels by Cold and Famine.

Abundance of other like remarkable Instances are common in History to be found, constantly to attend these and other Prodigies, which for brevity's sake I omit here; these being sufficient to confirm what is before related as to the opinion of the School-men and others concerning Prodigies; and that brings me to

The *Fifth* and last point, in which I Promised my own Opinion, concerning this present Prodigy, now under consideration, and that shall be *First* in respect to its Cause, and *Secondly* to its Effects.

First, As to the cause of **Mock-moons**, I take it to be the same with that of **Mock-Suns**, which however rare, and therefore Prodigious and Ominous, I must therefore join with those who conclude that all **mock-Suns** and **Mock-Moons**, are no more or less, than the Reflections of the Light and shining Beams, of the Real-Sun or Real-Moon, thro' thin, subtil, moist Clouds upon the Earth; and as such the effects of natural Causes only: And so the bright shining Cross that appeared in the Real-Moon at the time above mentioned; I take to proceed from such Reflections of that Glorious Bright, Shining Star, the Virgins Spike, near the Moon, thro' a Cloud of that Shape intervening between us and the Real-Moon: and that the Brightness of the Western Mock-Moon, and its Stream or Cone, beyond that of the Eastern **Mock-Moon**, I attribute to the being of the Fiery Planet Mars then in perfect Conjunction with the Western **Mock-Moon**: And the Circle over Head, in our Zenith, which some Spectators Judged to be a Rainbow, it was no more than the extreams of that Circle Astronomers call the Milky-way; Illuminated by the then extraordinary brightness of the Rays of the Moons Reflections, and only what is common when above the Horizon, near the Moon in any other Light, Bright, Calm Night; and therefore that part of the story no *Prodi y*,

Secondly, But as to the **Mock-Moons**, and their Attendants now under considerations, however thus proceeding from a natural cause, yet I cannot but range 'em among the Number of Prodigious: And tho' I will not take upon me to Assign individual Particulars; I look upon 'em to be at least Signs and Forerunners of things strange and stupendious to happen to the Earth and its inhabitants.

Cornelius Gemma, A Man most famous for Astrology, Lib. Cosimo. Cap. 8, says **Mock-Suns** or **Mock-Moons** are never seen, but New-Leagues are Taxed or brought in Question, or Clandestine Conspiracys practised, that so they may overthrow any by Contempt, Fraud, Deceit, Treachery; or entangle Men by Sinister Snares and Temptations; To this Paracelsus Lib. 8, Page 66. adds that **Mock-Suns** and **Mock-moons**, intimate in respect to the State of the World subject unto them, not only what shall not long after succeed, but as it were presently from the Day of their Appearance; they foreshew Schisms and other wonderful Matters, and such as seldom are to be seen and to be done; they demonstrate especially evident Madness, and the foolish Endeavours of Great Men &c. And Wolfgangus Meurer an eminent Philosopher and Enquirer into the natural Cause of **mock-Suns** and **mock-moons**, having taken abundance of Pains therein, at last says they Admonish such as have the Rule and Government over others, of Treachery, Cunning and Clandestine Plottings &c. and adds, that for the most part, they signify a Sophistical Depri-

vation

vation of the purer Doctrine, and Calumnies devulg'd or spread abroad, under an honest Pretence, variously to Defame and Aspers those, who by their Merits and Virtue have obtained a great Name, and been very famous. To which the once famous Mr. William Lilly adds, that it is generally received by all that allow of Predictions, that the Mock-Moons are Precursors of Divisions, Clandestine Plots, Treacheries, Breach of Leagues and Covenants, and the cause of sudden Commotions &c. Upon such Appearances adds he, the Counsels of the most Aged shall be Despised, the Projections of the Young Men tend to Madness and Mischief, the Advice of the most wise Slighted and Contem'd. They usually shew a general Calamity at hand, Sedition, Alienation and Adverseness to Peace; Schism and Rents in Church Affairs, Disorder amongst the Religious, the Brooding and Starting up of Rugged Tenets in Divinity, a Delirium, Madness or Confusion, Domineering in most parts of Christendom.

At the time of this Prodigys Appearance, the Moon was Separating from a Sextile of Saturn and applying to a Trine of Venus; Saturn in Square and Mars in Trine to Mercury, and Jupiter, and the Sun in Square. The Separation and Application of the Moon, Denotes the good and mending State and Satisfaction of the common People; the Aspects of Mercury, Quarrells, Messages, Fraudulent Ambassys, Messages and Contrivances, and that of Jupiter and the Sun, Quarrelling among Statesmen and Gownmen; and variety of Removals among such. But a short Tract of time, will put things into a more Satisfactory order, and in short, there is a great work in hand, which is not yet ripe for Discovery. In my next Years Almanack, I shall God willing be more particular and make my Readers more directly Acquainted, with what in a short time to come will fill the World with Wonder and Amazement. In the mean time that God may direct the the Hearts of her Majesties Subjects to general Unity, Agreement, Peace and Concord among one another, Love Duty and Affection to the Queen and her Government; preserve her Dominions from all Infection and Seditious Spirits, and her Sacred Person in Health, Wealth and Prosperity, long to Reign and Rule over us, and Bless and Preserve the most Illustrious House of Hannover, and the Church in her Purity and Doctrine, shall ever be the Prayers of

John Whalley

FINIS.

